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ABSTRACT

This 47-item bibliography lists selected sources which offer advice, instruction, and opinion on the subject of clerical reading, including when and how it should be done. Basic speech textbooks and articles; secular oral interpretation textbooks and articles; religious source materials; and classical collections of sermons are annotated and included. (RAE)

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PULPIT READING

A Selected, Annotated Bibliography Prepared by
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Much of what is delivered by the clergy in front of worshippers is done from manuscript. There are sermons, collects, prayers, litanies, responsive readings, announcements, lessons, etc. This bibliography will list selected sources which offer advice, instruction, and opinion on the subject of clerical reading, including when and how it should be done.

Basic Speech Textbooks and Articles

Ehninger, Douglas and others. Principles and Types of Speech Communication. Tenth Edition. Glenview, IL: Scott, Foresman and Company, 1986. Few speech textbooks have enjoyed such lasting success as this one, first written in 1935 by the late Alan H. Monroe. How to achieve workable, useable notes, outlines, and/or manuscripts. Vocalization and good oral style discussed.

McCroskey, James C. An Introduction to Rhetorical Communication: The Theory and Practice of Public Speaking. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1968. This book continues to be among the most thorough of communication textbooks, truly a classic in the field.

Schmidt, Ralph N. "Speaking a Written Speech." Today's Speech, vol. 11, no. 1 (February 1963), 4-5. Schmidt distinguishes between readers and speakers of printed speeches. He urges everyone to take a course in oral interpretation if s/he does any public speaking.

Sprague, Jo and Douglas Stuart. The Speaker's Handbook. Second ed. NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, 1988, 241-5. Style clear and readable, information concise and valid. Manuscript values and the mandatory warnings.

Secular Oral Interpretation Textbooks and Articles

Bacon, Wallace A. and Robert S. Breen. Literature as Experience. NY: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1959. Literature and the enjoyment thereof is a necessary part of all educated persons. Clergy need to have a broad background, supplementing knowledge of scripture with other writings.

Campbell, Paul N. Oral Interpretation. NY: The Macmillan Company, 1966. Short, practical introduction to the subject. Brief definitions and clarifications, along with simple reading notation systems, many helpful examples.

Grimes, Wilma H. and Mark S. Klyn. "Symposium: Standpoints in Oral Interpretation." Western Speech, Vol. 28, (Summer 1964), 133-166. See Klyn below. See Mattingly below.

Klyn, Mark S. "The Terms of Feeling." See Grimes, above, 159-166. Klyn examines the dilemma which confronts the clergy even more than it faces the lay reader or speaker: "How emotionally involved should one be in oral reading?" He explores the temptation to retreat into coolness and lack of involvement, cites significant literary, philosophical, and theological works, and contends that refusing to confront the feelings in a work is dehumanizing.

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Lee, Charlotte I. Oral Interpretation. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1987. In its 7th edition, this classic text must be included.

Mattingly, Alethea S. "The Listener and the Interpreter's Style." See Grimes, above. 154-159. Treats audience analysis, a topic often ignored by clergy.

Perrine, Laurence. Sound and Sense: An Introduction to Poetry. 5th ed. NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1977. This well-travelled text should be perused by anyone who wants to read poetry well, alone or orally to others.

Post, Robert M. "Perception through Performance of Literature." Communication Education, XIX, no. 3 (Sept. 1970), 168-172. Both performer and audience gain increased perception—heightened understanding through the "intricate relationship of the senses, the intellect, and the emotions"—through oral performance of written material. Well-prepared delivery of any written material, from pulpit or lectern, may benefit both clergy and congregation .

Sharp, William L. "Meter and Oral Interpretation." Western Speech, 23 (Winter 1959), 26-31. Much reading from lectern or pulpit is poetical in form, but may not be treated as such. Sharp's plea for observation of the conventions of poetic meter, though cast in a secular context, is useful.

Religious Source Materials

Asquith, Glenn H. Preaching According to Plan. Valley Forge: the Judson Press, 1968. Citing the inherent difficulties of doing manuscript reading well, Asquith eschews its use except for certain cases which he lists.

Aycock, Don M., editor. Heralds to a New Age: Preaching for the Twenty-First Century. Elgin, Illinois: Brethren Press, 1985. Essays represent homiletical thinking all along the continuum, including evangelical, Roman Catholic, and Jewish. Chapter 19 is a strong appeal for effective reading in the pulpit. The closing chapter, How I Prepare my Sermons: A Symposium, is quite useful.

Bachman, John V. "Rhetoric in the Ministry," Communication Quarterly, VII (Sept. 1959), 3-5.

Barth, Karl. Trans. by B. E. Hooke. The Preaching of the Gospel. Philadelphia: Westminster, 1963. Fifty pages devoted to characteristics of preaching, twenty to sermon preparation, and ten to the manuscript of one of his sermons. Brief, but significant points made. A sermon must be written. Only a sermon in which every word can be justified may be said to be a sacramental action.

Baumer, Fred A. "Toward the Development of Homiletic as Rhetorical Genre: A Critical Study of Roman Catholic Preaching in the United States since Vatican Council II. Unpublished Ph.D. Dissertation, Northwestern University, 1985. Liturgical or ritualistic preaching, homiletic, is described, using Kenneth Burke's dramatistic pentad. Practical rules for preparation and delivery.

Blackwood, Andrew W. The Fine Art of Preaching. NY: Macmillan, 1937. Sermon preparation romanticized in abstract, actual preparation given little attention. Still, useful cautions expressed regarding manuscript preaching.

Brack, Harold A. Effective Oral Interpretation for Religious Leaders. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1964. Covers all types of religious oral presentations except the sermon. Preparation for reading, specific instructions for vocal and physical activity during the presentation.

Broadus, John A. On the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons. Rev. Ed. NY: Harper and Row, Publishers, 1944, (1st ed. 1870), 22 editions. Respect for this classic has never totally disappeared. It is thorough and scholarly.

Chase, Mary Ellen. Readings from the Bible. NY: The Macmillan Company, 1952. Portions of the Bible have been excerpted and organized, with "brief introductions to the selections and...critical and explanatory notes...written in order to clarify the reading."

Craddock, Fred B. Preaching. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985. This is an interesting, practical textbook. Chapters on preparation and delivery describe the values of writing prior to the pulpit and explore ways to handle notes and manuscripts in the pulpit. There is a brief annotated bibliography.

Cunningham, Elizabeth T. Suggestions and Audio-visual Aids for Reading the Bible Aloud. Unpublished master's thesis. The University of Michigan, 1954.

Davis, H. Grady. Design for Preaching. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1958. Davis discusses in detail the differences between oral and literary styles, stressing that a sermon must be in oral style.

Edwards, O. C., Jr. Elements of Homiletic. NY: Pueblo Publishing Company, 1982. Edwards flatly denounces reading from the pulpit, but allows judicious use of a manuscript when glanced at as notes.

Eggold, Henry J. Preaching Is Dialogue. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980. Eggold prefers to include the use of a manuscript, no matter what ultimately becomes the delivery style. Standard pro-and-con arguments relevant to reading a sermon in the pulpit, various methods put in perspective, and a manuscript-outline-notes-thorough rehearsal-no notes delivery preferred.

Freeman, Harold. Variety in Biblical Preaching. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1987. This book presents "innovative techniques and fresh forms" in preaching, e.g., dramatic monologue, dialogical, and media-augmented sermons. Much practical advice on the value of a manuscript in preparation and delivery of a sermon.

Freshley, Dwight L. "The Theory of Communication in Preaching," Journal of Communication, IX (June 1959), 59-67.

Hunsinger, Paul. A Study of the Oral Interpretation of the King James Version of the Bible as the Scripture Lesson in the Sunday Morning Worship Services of the Protestant Churches. Unpublished doctoral dissertation. Northwestern University, 1951. Various types of prose and poetry which comprise the Bible are carefully delineated. Helpful tips are given for oral treatment of each.

Jones, Ilion T. Principles and Practice of Preaching. Nashville: Abingdon, 1956. Chapter on style gives detailed and practical advice for achieving an effective approach to preaching. Chapter on delivery gives a brief history of manuscript preaching, along with cautions and tips. Extensive book lists.

Killinger, John. Fundamentals of Preaching. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1985. (Paperback) Oral and written styles are contrasted. The preacher is urged to write out the entire sermon, no matter how it is to be delivered. Arguments for and against reading sermons are given.

Knox, John. The Integrity of Preaching. NY: Abingdon Press, 1957. James A. Gray lectures at Duke Divinity School. Dilemma posed: thorough preparation versus immediate relevance. Value of use of a manuscript questioned.

Koch, John B. "The Sermon, Communication Theory, and Seminary Education," Lutheran Theological Journal, vol. 20, nos. 2-3 (1986), 108-115. Without denigrating Holy Spirit's role in sermon preparation and delivery, insights of communication theory added. Relevant sections on encoding and transmission.

Koenig, Norma Evans. The Relation of Interpretative Reading to Preaching. Unpublished Masters Thesis. University of Chicago, 1947.

Lantz, J. Edward. Reading the Bible Aloud. NY: The Macmillan Company, 1959. Much attention is given to analysis of sections of the Bible and categorization of various portions, so that each may be approached most effectively. Helpful advice is given for actual preparation and delivery.

Lee, Charlotte I. Oral Reading of the Scriptures. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1974. A chapter each on oral interpretation, vocal and physical delivery, and literary style. Various literary forms under which sections of the Bible are organized, with special tips for each.

Lewis, Ralph L. with Gregg Lewis. Inductive Preaching Helping People Listen. Westchester, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1983. Need cited for vocal and visual directness, deploring fact that "oral style" is practically ignored in most homiletics books. Thorough discussion of oral and written styles. Extempore delivery is preferred, but advantages and effective use of manuscript treated.

Lewis, Ralph L. Speech for Persuasive Preaching. Berne, Ind.: Economy Printing, 1968. Values and limitations of manuscript reading listed in detail.

Marsh, Thomas H. "Some Problems of Oral Bible Reading." The Quarterly Journal of Speech, 23 (February 1937), 396-403. Marsh lists six elements concerning public Bible reading, several of which are also relevant to manuscript preaching, including the admonition against the "ministerial tone/twang."

Noble, Charles C. "A New Deal in Preaching," Today's Speech, now Communication Quarterly, vol. V, no. 1 (January 1957), 8-11. Then Dean of the Syracuse University Chapel. Practical advice on how to make sermons interesting.

Stevenson, Dwight E. and Charles F. Diehl. Reaching People from the Pulpit. NY: Harper and Row, 1958. This practical book contains many examples, illustrations, suggestions, remedial ideas, and even rating sheets for the use of clergy. Detailed steps are included for both preaching and reading.

Stratman, Gary D. Pastoral Preaching: Timeless Truth for Changing Needs, Nashville: Abingdon, 1983. Stresses value of discipline of writing. Extensive annotated bibliography: books, articles, theses, and dissertations.

Sweazey, George E. Preaching the Good News. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1976. Communication theory, a concrete, detailed "recipe" for reading a manuscript sermon, and an extensive annotated bibliography.

Tauber, Abraham. "Jewish Rhetoric," Today's Speech, now Communication Quarterly, Vol. XVII, no. 4 (November 1969), 57-67. The history of the sermon in Jewish life and scriptures, training methods, and tips for improvement.

Classical Collections of Sermons

Brooks, Phillips. Sermons Preached in English Churches. NY: E.P. Dutton and Company, 1910. Six volumes of sermons by a much-honored preacher.

Sugden, E. H. The Standard Sermons of John Wesley. London: Epworth, 1935.